

### **Sweetpotato** فَ Profit and Health Initiative Reaching 10 million African households by 2020

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE IN SWEETPOTATO SEED SYSTEMS IN KENYA**

### **SWEETPOTATO SEED STANDARDS**

Sweetpotato is under schedule two in the Kenyan law (Cap 326) which warrants mandatory certification of vines (seed). The sweetpotato certification standard has been reviewed pending approval and circulation for use.

Seed classes used for sweetpotato are:- Breeder seed, Prebasic, Basic (C1 – C4) and Standard seed

KEPHIS seed inspectors are mandated to carry out inspection of sweetpotato seed. A seed merchant caters for one-time registration fee. Inspection and mileage fees also charged during certification. The merchant can then subcontract seed growers who only pay an initial fee for the first year and thereafter an annual renewal fee.

## **LEVEL OF USE OF SEED STANDARDS**

By geographic area and gender disaggregation most seed inspectors are male who are based in Kisumu and Kitale regional offices. This covers the sweetpotato growing areas in Kenya.

Development partners (NGOs and CBOs) have taken up more on certification of basic seed production due to increased demand of quality planting material and ready market for

### **FIELD STANDARD THRESHOLDS**

FIELD STANDARDS	BASIC	C1 – C2
FACTOR		
Off types	None	5 plant per count (100 plants)
Sweet potato weevil	None	5 plant per count (100 plants)
Stem Blight	None	None
Alternaria pathicola		
Fusarium wilt	None	5 plant per count (100 plants)
Sweet potato virus disease(sweet	None	None
potato chlorotic stunt virus and		
Sweetpotato feathery mottle virus		
Soil rot ((Actinomyces ipomoea)	2 plants per count	5 plants per count

# **CRITICAL GAPS, CONCERNS AND NEXT STEPS**

### Gaps

roots.

Need for capacity building on sweetpotato seed standard Certification charges

#### Next steps

Training seed inspectors and stakeholders on sweetpotato seed standard

Creating awareness on importance of clean certified planting material

### **SEED INSPECTION IN OPEN FIELD**

\*A vine crop may be rejected on the basis of serious field infestations by other pests such as nematodes and beetles.

## **CAPACITY BUILDING & ROLL OUT STRATEGY**

The seed inspectors and basic multipliers will be trained by end of 2017 on the sweetpotato standard.

The actors include seed merchants, regulators, researchers and policy makers. The field standard thresholds have been revised in agreement with stakeholders to accommodate and create ease in certification. The policy makers are taking lead in organizing and bringing sweetpotato stakeholders together. There is a root and tubers strategy by MoALF that is being implemented that supports seed systems and value addition of sweetpotato.

### **END USERS AND BENEFITS**

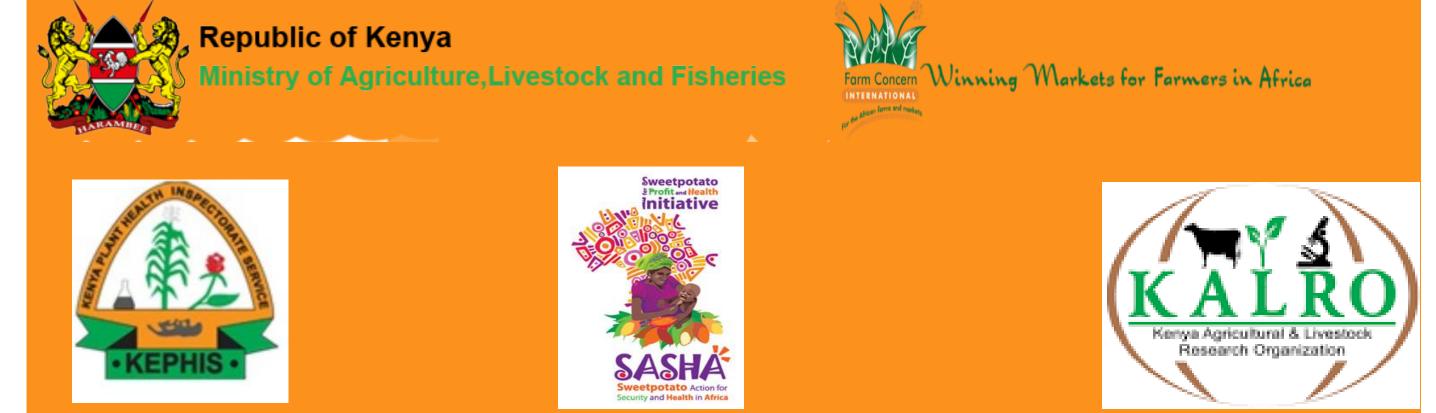
The end user are seed multipliers, root producers,



### **KEY PARTNERS FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE**

**MoALF-Policy** makers **KEPHIS-NPPO/Regulator** KARLO and CIP-Researchers NGOs and CBOs-Development partners

processors and consumers of sweetpotato. Both male and female multiply sweetpotato seed. Their age range from 25 to 68 years. Basic seed multipliers, and development partners feel that the cost involved (inspection and mileage) are expensive. Therefore olny a few sweetpotato seed merchants have been registered for certification



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